

TEMPLE BETH-EL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER
The Marjorie and Mark Gershwind Campus of Living Judaism
5 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023



GROWING TOGETHER

Vicki Perler, Director
October 14, 2022

Dear Families,

Our Sukkot Consecration celebration today was a very beautiful and meaningful event for our children and families. It was definitely “a happening” and the strong and vibrant nature of our ECEC community was evident in the Sukkah as well as throughout the school grounds. Thank you all for your most enthusiastic participation. It was truly a magical morning! Celebrating the beginning of your child’s Jewish education at Temple Beth-El’s ECEC with a Consecration ceremony in the Sukkah was a joyous and memorable moment for all of us, and I’m looking forward to a year filled with continued happiness, excitement and memorable experiences for our children and families.

There’s just something about Sukkot that’s captivating! Perhaps it’s the simplicity of the holiday itself, the natural world in which we envelop ourselves for a week, or the sharing of meals in the Sukkah with friends and family. The week-long celebration is extraordinary every year, and I am totally saddened at week’s end. This “Season of our Rejoicing,” Chag Simcha, was just that. Rejoicing together on every possible occasion is a mitzvah that we should always honor.

All in all, our memories of Sukkot 2022 are strong. The walls of the Sukkah are temporary and will be down by next week, but the relationships and connections we’ve formed during these first six weeks of school will be ever lasting. We began this year with covenants of mutual support and obligations between our families,

teachers, school, and the Temple community. The enthusiasm and happiness of our community rang loudly as we beautifully shared sacred time in our sacred Sukkah. It is my hope that we will continue to create joyful sacred spaces for learning and sacred times to promote our core values during the coming year. These special moments will allow us to celebrate our achievements along our year-long journey.

Shabbat Shalom

Moadim L'Simcha - May Your Festival Days Be Happy

Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, October 17	Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah – School Closed
Tuesday, October 18	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tues & Wed, October 25&26	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Tuesday, October 25	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tuesday, October 25	Yoga Class for Adults begins (8 classes) – 9:00 am

CONNECTIONS

Pre-K Program at Temple Beth-El for 2023-24 – It seems as though many parents are not familiar with our highly regarded Pre-K program. In order to meet the ever-changing needs of families, a few years ago Temple Beth-El generously reduced the tuition significantly, increased the number of hours for the Pre-K (from 9-2 to 9-3), and included lunch. We have an outstanding Pre-K program, taught by exceptional and highly qualified teachers, and our school meets and exceeds New York State's Prekindergarten Next Generation Learning Standards. Our students are very well-prepared for kindergarten. As you know, Temple Beth-El strives to provide an excellent early childhood Jewish experience for our toddler through pre-kindergarten children and to keep our programs accessible to our community. We are very grateful for the generosity of our Temple to help families out in this way. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity. If you would like a tour, please contact me to arrange a date. We are proud to show you our dynamic Pre-K class in action. Registration begins on December 7.

Hot Lunch - The foods children eat and lifestyle habits they learn have a lasting effect on their health. Due to the overwhelming interest of our families to provide nutritious meals for lunch, we offer meat and dairy lunches for all students. As you know, one of the values of our school is to maintain the highest quality of care whenever possible. This value should also be reflected in the foods we eat.

Lunch Menu:

- Monday** – Plain pasta with sauce on the side, and vegetable
- Tuesday** – Baked chicken fingers, French fries and vegetable
- Wednesday** Pizza and Israeli salad
- Thursday**- Quesadillas, cucumbers, salsa and sour cream
- Friday** – Grilled chicken, rice and vegetable

Our lunch is provided in individual packages for each child. We also have whole wheat bread and soy butter available to children who have not yet acquired the taste for these new foods. We hope that over time, children will discover and enjoy a variety of foods.

Health and Safety Precautions – Wash your hands!! Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults. The health and safety procedures in the ECEC are very specific as we strive to reduce the spread of infection in our school. **Do not bring your child to school if s/he appears ill.** We appreciate your cooperation at all times.

Important ECEC Telephone Information – If you have an important message and cannot reach me or Nancy on the telephone during the day, please ask someone in the main office to find us and relay the message. We hope this system will help you if you are unable to talk to us in person.

Shabbat Sing –We join together on Friday mornings to experience a beautiful sing-along with me. It is the highlight of my week - every week. I feel very blessed to be able to teach your children beautiful Shabbat melodies. Our Shabbat Sing experiences are outdoors, especially during these beautiful days. Singing and music is a vital part of education, and we embrace the language of music as often as possible.

Shabbat with the Rabbi or Shabbat with the Cantor – This year, we are also blessed with having Rabbi Stoller and Cantor Adam share beautiful Shabbat experiences with the children in our Chapel every week. Having meaningful relationships with the Rabbi and Cantor are one of our goals this year, and we look forward to creating joyous and memorable Shabbat celebrations with them every week.

Contact Information - Please call, email or see me if you have anything you would like to discuss. My email address is yperler@tbegreatneck.org. This is usually the best way to reach me.

Links to Remember – I invite you to visit the websites connected to the links below. The links relate to information about early childhood education, Jewish life and learning, and helpful hints for parents.

<https://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shmini-atzeret-and-simchat-torah>

<https://pjlibrary.org/sukkot>

<https://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/sukkot>

<https://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/c63e85f1-58d9-44fd-ae8a-696825e88d25/Jewish-values-ECE.pdf>

www.tbe-ecec.org

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<http://www.reggioalliance.org/>

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/>